



## Arlington Tree Committee (ATC)

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024

**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 PM

**Location:** [ATC Monthly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

**Attendees:** Keith Schnebly, Steve Moore, Maryellen Aronow, Jackie Anderson, Marina Popova, Susan Stamps, Olivier Aries, Eliza Burden, Ed Trembly. Tree Warden Tim Lecuivre,

**Guests:** Sara Alfaro-Franco from ConCom, Justin W

#### Agenda:

1. Call to Order / Meeting Norms
2. Review Agenda, Introduce Guests
3. Status of Action Items from Previous Month.
  - a. Payments status: **Action Item: Tim L to confirm.**
  - b. Olivier FAQ: to discuss.
  - c. Susan: Legal for Back-of-Sidewalk Program.
  - d. Tim: Completed -- "no plant" flag should remain on the map for residences that refused public tree.
  - e. Jackie: figure out how update the flag when a property is sold - review list of "no plant" locations once a year and identify "sold" ones.
  - f. Marina: YA article – Marina to send the draft of the article to everyone, but in small groups. **Action Item for everyone:** review and provide feedback.
  - g. Susan: Watering use of Trees Please Funds - need to get answer from Town Counsel. **Action Item; Susan to reach out.**
  - h. Keith: banners for Adopt-a-Tree -- still Action Item.
  - i. Steve: talk to HS about QR codes – Completed.
  - j. Tim L: Safe Walk to School status. **Action Item: Keith S, Susan** - find out the Final Plan.
  - k. Steve/Eliza: get list of public trees that need bags and stakes removed - tabled
4. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from Previous Month
  - a. April Minutes: Approved unanimously. **Action Item for Marina:** find out if there is a Town standard for Minutes formatting.
  - b. May Minutes: Approved unanimously.
  - c. **Action Item for all that need to:** complete online Conflict of Interest training.
  - d. Discussion about "No plant" designation on the Tree Inventory map; Tim explained that if people do not want a tree, they neglect it or destroy it, so we do not plant trees in such locations.
5. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)
  - a. Tree Preservation Bylaw Activity

- i. 114 116 Barnum St.: complete rebuild - no trees on property, one public tree will be protected.
    - ii. 41 Mt Vernon St.: Builder -- Seaver Properties. Tree plan: Barrett Tree East. No trees will be removed, all trees will be protected
    - iii. 40 Ridge St.: Builder -- HighTech Dormer. Full roof structure removed. Tree Plan: Barrett Tree East -- no trees removed; all trees protected. Tim was pleased to see that due to the latest amendment, this builder known for adding floors to existing structures had to comply. Also, Tim pleased that builders are reaching out to professionals to complete tree plans.
  - b. Tree Hearings. None.
  - c. Town Projects & Maintenance Activities
    - i. Bikepath project - removing trees near Kick Stand Cafe to put bike stand. **Action Item for Tim:** can we plant more trees there? **Action Item for Keith:** talk to Kickstand Cafe - see if they want to participate in tree planting.
    - ii. Olivier: question about trees clearing near Ace Hardware on Mill St. -- Tim most likely it is private property. **Action Item for Marina:** find who the owner is - and see if they might be interested in tree planting too.
    - iii. Ed: STOP sign obscured by tree - Lake + Herbert Str. **Action Item for Keith:** investigate.
    - iv. Steve: question on how is Town supporting street tree watering? Tim explained that here are 2 interns and 1 watering truck; they are going around and watering trees during the day.
- 6. Back-of-Sidewalk Program (BOSP)
  - a. Subcommittee Update
    - i. Eliza: no sub-committee meetings.
    - ii. Olivier drafted a great FAQ sheet. One more question: what if tree needs to be removed? Answer: it is resident's responsibility after one year. **Action Item for Olivier:** send it out to all but in small groups.
    - iii. Eliza: talked to Beth Locke - chamber of commerce head about the Back of Sidewalk effort. She came up with some ideas for contacts and encouraged us to think about looping this effort into Arlington 250 initiatives. **Action Item for Eliza:** spin up tree planting as Arlington 250 related activity.
    - iv. We are updating the spreadsheet with locations for BOSP.
    - v. Marina: update on conversation with some select locations
      - 1. Rental on Bow St. -- NO.
      - 2. Dudley St. -- no response.
      - 3. Private residences: three YES.
    - vi. Susan received a positive response from Town Counsel about our BOSP document that will be signed by program participants. His one concern was that the ones digging must contact Digsafe. Susan: DigSafe --who's responsibility? The contractor will have to call the DigSafe before planting. **Action Item:** should Digsafe be mentioned on the waiver?
    - vii. How to keep track/respond to those residents who expressed interest?
- 7. Adopt-a-Tree Program (AATP).
  - a. The program is live, the GIS map is complete -- all currently adoptable trees are displayed.
  - b. **Action Item for Susan:** check the finance budget passed at Town Meeting to see if it included a new DPW watering truck. **Action Item for Steve:** find out how many trees are currently adopted.
- 8. Publicity & Events
  - a. Arlington Heights Street Event May 18 -- it was GREAT!
  - b. Chamber of Commerce advertising and video opportunity; deadline June 16. **Action Item for Eliza/Marina:** do we want to put an Aad in? Create a text for ad.
  - c. YourArlington News Feature -- **Action Item for Marina:** see above.
  - d. Street Banners -- Keith: meeting with the potential designer tomorrow.
  - e. Laura India Garois -- MIT Architecture Student May 15<sup>th</sup> Presentation -- Report out.

9. ATC Outreach to Town Departments / Boards / Committees / Commissions

- a. ARB/ ConComm -- nothing relevant to ATC.
- b. Con Comm -- Sarah Alfaro-Franco is the rep to the ATC.
- c. Letter to Mike R; **Action Item for Keith/Steve:** meeting with Mike to discuss many items.

10. New Business

- a. Reforestation Act: Susan explained the State Reforestation Act; funding for increasing Tree Canopy to 30-40%.
- b. Marina: how to request public trees for any location (not your own address) Answer: Tim - enter request for Tree on the Town Website and enter the desired location in the Comments section.
- c. **Reminder: do not email Tim directly, unless approved by the ATC Chairs.**

11. Review New Action Items.

12. Adjourn -- 9:10 PM.

**Next Meeting:** July 10, 2024